

4 March 1948

Lt. Gen. John E. Hull
Commanding General
U. S. Armed Forces
Middle Pacific
Fort Shafter, T. H.

Dear General Hull,

Please accept my most sincere thanks for the two interviews granted me during my recent visit to Hawaii and for the many courtesies shown me by the members of your staff.

Following your suggestion, I discussed our Foreign Broadcast Information Service communication problems with Col. Miller and I feel sure that he will do whatever he can to improve our service. We recognize the fact that supporting us in our present isolated location is most difficult. However, in addition to the technical disadvantages of locating on Oahu it is believed that the expenditure of funds to transfer this station from Kauai could not be justified due to the uncertainty of maintaining a station permanently in the Hawaiian Islands. The splendid support which we are receiving is genuinely appreciated.

We are particularly grateful to Col. Weyand and your G-2 Section for their invaluable assistance, especially during communication breakdowns. Their assistance in getting our material to the Pacific Relay Station considerably lessens the final affect here in Washington of the communication breakdowns in Hawaii.

Again I wish to thank you for the most cordial treatment I received at your Headquarters.

Sincerely,

L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

Subject: Visit of the Chief, FBIB to FBIB West Coast and Pacific Installations during the period 21 January 1948 through 25 February 1948

1. The FBIB Stations at Reseda, California, Kauai, T. H., and Tokyo, Japan were visited by the Chief, FBIB during the periods indicated below. Appropriate action relative to routine matters noted as well as those listed below, which it is believed should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Director for Operations, was taken on the spot or has been initiated where approval by or coordination with other offices of CIA is necessary.

a. Reseda, California - 24 January 1948 and 19-22 February 1948.

1. Construction at Reseda is in its final stages. It is expected that the contractor will complete his work early in April. Immediately thereafter, FBIB engineers will complete the installation of remaining technical equipment. By mid-April the Station is expected to be ready for operation.

2. Plans were formulated with the Chief of the West Coast Mission for the beginning of monitoring operations at Reseda on 18 April 1948 and for the progressive movement of personnel from Portland, Oregon so as to cease monitoring operations at Portland on 6 May 1948. No coverage will be lost except a minimal amount during the period May 8 through 12 when the last personnel to leave Portland will be enroute to Reseda.

3. Despite the housing shortage with which the West Coast staff is confronted at Reseda, only two employees of the present Portland staff are not transferring to Reseda.

b. Kauai, T. H. - 26-29 January 1948 and 13-15 February 1948

1. This Station is isolated almost completely from other activities of Hawaii since no armed forces installations remain on the Island and it is on the opposite side of the Island from clubs, and most other entertainment and recreational activities.

2. The Americans stationed there have little association with the other Caucasian populace of the Island. This is believed to be because of the close relationship of FBIB employees with Orientals which is almost unavoidable in an operation of this nature.

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3. Quarters are war-time hutments and are considered unsatisfactory.

4. The Camp is several miles from a good beach. The Chief of the Mission was instructed to explore the possibilities of opening a small swimming pool which is already within the Camp.

5. Unmarried employees participate in a mess at which they have an evening meal prepared for them. Breakfast and lunch are individually prepared. An additional mess attendant is to be provided at government expense to correct this unsatisfactory condition.

6. Despite these isolated and unsatisfactory conditions the morale of the employees in general is good. This is attributed to:

(a) About 25% are natives of the Island of Kauai.

(b) About 50% are natives of the Hawaiian Islands.

(c) The Americans there are able to save a substantial part of their salary.

7. Communications have deteriorated during recent months. During December communications were out 27% of the time, during January more than 24% of the time, and probably more than this during February. Arrangements have been made to send the teletype tape via Hawaiian Air Lines to Honolulu when communications are out. There it is picked up by G-2 courier and delivered to the Pacific Relay Center for transmission to Washington. Due to this excellent cooperation of G-2 at Ft. Shafter, Washington does not feel the full impact of the communication breakdowns. A conference was held with the Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Signal Service, G-2, and the Commanding General with a view to improving communication service. It is believed that it can and will be improved somewhat. However, support for FBIB is a considerable burden on the Signal Service and cannot be expected to be maintained without breaks in service.

8. Conferences were held with G-2, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff and the Commanding General to discuss FBIB general plans and operations. This Headquarters is very enthusiastic about the FBIB operation and most willing and anxious to support us in any way possible.

c. Tokyo, Japan. - 1-13 February 1948

1. It is desirable to rearrange office space in Tokyo so as to separate administrative functions from editorial and monitoring functions since many foreign nationals are working in this operation and it is practically impossible to discuss classified information in the

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office without disclosing it to unauthorized persons. The necessary action is being taken.

2. An Administrative Assistant is necessary at an early date. The Chief of the Bureau at present must personally do his own typing in the preparation of any classified correspondence or information, including payrolls.

3. The capabilities of this Station have not been fully determined and, due to the limited staff and equipment, known capabilities are not fully exploited. The Chief of the Bureau is at present exploring exhaustively the capabilities of this Station, and the necessary action will be taken to exploit its capabilities fully until a major Far Eastern Station is established.

4. Foreign national linguists on the Tokyo staff are paid by the Japanese Government in yen. Their salary is such that it is extremely difficult for them, especially those with families, to live. As a result, many of these employees have other positions which detract from the overall efficiency of our organization. It may become necessary in the near future to supplement their salaries in order to retain these essential employees on our staff. The Chief of the Tokyo Bureau is exploring, with GHQ, the possibility of supplementing these salaries in U. S. dollars deposited in a bank to be drawn against by the employee for purchases of food and clothing at the Foreign National Commissary without permitting the dollars to actually get into the hands of the employee.

5. During this period the sites under consideration for the location of Far East Monitoring Station at Sasebo, Japan and Bolo Point, Okinawa were visited. Observations, conclusions and recommendations with reference to these sites were submitted in memorandum to Assistant Director for Operations, dated 1 March 1948, Subject: Major Factors to be Considered in Choosing Between Sasebo, Japan and Bolo Point, Okinawa for the Location of an FBIS Far East Monitoring Station.

6. Brief and informal conferences were held with the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, the Chief Signal Officer, and Staff Officers in the G-4 Section of the Far East Command in which FBIS plans and operations were informally discussed.

7. Attached hereto, Tab A, is copy of a brief report of the visit of the Chief, FBIS to the Far East Command, submitted directly to G-2, FEC in accordance with his verbal request.

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L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIS

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